

Skill Certificate Program

VERIFYING TECHNICAL SKILL ATTAINMENT

Our mission:

Skill Certificate Program initiatives provide statewide competency-based student assessments. Student skill attainment is measured by core standards and competencies needed to be successful in the workforce.

The core standards and competencies help improve programs, curriculum and instruction through the use of incentive-based, competency-based student assessment.

The Skill Certificate Program provides students with opportunities to receive instruction aligned with standards and objectives set by the state of Utah and by industry. Students receive “skill certificates” verifying technical skill achievement.

ASSESSMENT

By first establishing a core set of skills identified by the state Career and Technical Education (CTE) program specialists and teachers, with the support of business and industry, each of the assessments in the Skill Certificate Program is designed to measure how individual students, programs, schools, and districts are performing based on a set of standards used consistently throughout the state.

INCENTIVES

- Districts receive an incentive based on the performance of their students on the assessments in the various program areas.
- 20% of Career and Technical Education funding is allocated based on student performance.
- 12% of Career and Technical Education funding is distributed through the Skill Certificate Program.

Our vision is to give every student the opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability by encouraging him or her to participate in a variety of skill tests that will aid in jump-starting careers through development of academic knowledge and technical skill attainment.

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS:

College Tech Prep
Comprehensive Guidance
Skill Certificate
Technology, Life, and Careers
Work-Based Learning



TEST DEVELOPMENT

- Standards and Objectives are derived from national and/or state task analysis.
- Questions are taken from course Standards and Objectives.
- Components of tests include multiple-choice and performance graded at an 80% level.
- 70 questions, plus 10 pilot questions, are standard on all tests developed by the Utah State Office of Education CTE program area specialists and their development teams.
- Test responses are statistically analyzed twice a year.
- 126 tests have been developed.
- 25 state and/or national certifications are also used.

PARTICIPATION

- All 40 school districts voluntarily participate.
- All 109 high schools participate.
- All 9 Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) centers have the opportunity to participate.

ACCOUNTABILITY

CTE provides skill certificates in courses and programs in grades 9-12. These tests verify skill attainment and, where available, industry exams are offered. This accountability system assures that all courses and programs in the state are consistently teaching to the standards established by experts in that occupational area. The Skill Certificate Program is used to report technical skill attainment for the accountability system mandated in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998.

TESTS OFFERED IN ALL CTE AREAS OF STUDY

Agricultural Education
Business Education
Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Literacy Education
Family and Consumer Sciences Education
Health Science and Technology Education
Information Technology Education
Marketing Education
Technology and Engineering Education
Trade and Technical Education

NUMBER OF TESTS ADMINISTERED

2003-2004	164,887
2002-2003	159,036
2001-2002	145,262
2000-2001	131,173
1999-2000	114,417
1998-1999	97,529
1997-1998	77,011
1996-1997	52,259
1995-1996	32,638

In 2003-2004, 116,830 students attained a substantial or sufficient level on the competency skill certificate tests, of which 76,901 demonstrated substantial skill at 80% or above. Student performance must be demonstrated in class as part of the skill certificate process.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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